

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1090

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR, UK

SUBJECT: SECOND EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE -
A GERMAN BARRIER?

REF: PARIS 13804

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ALAN HARGREAVES, HEAD OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, SAID THAT HE IS WORRIED ABOUT THE GERMAN DGB'S EFFORTS TO DELAY THE NEXT EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE FOR SIX MONTHS BEYOND JANUARY, WHEN THE TUC WISHES IT SHOULD OPEN. END SUMMARY

2. HARGREAVES SAID HE WAS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS AND OTHER EXAMPLES OF GERMAN EFFORTS TO DOMINATE THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. HE SAID THE TUC WAS ALSO PARTICULARLY EXERCISED OVER WHAT APPEARS TO BE A GERMAN MONOPOLY OF THE LEADERSHIP OF KEY INSTITUTIONS. HARGREAVES NOTED THAT IN ADDITION TO THERE BEING A GERMAN AS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ICFTU (OTTO KERSTEN), A GERMAN AS PRESIDENT OF THE ETUC (HEINZ VECTER), IT NOW

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APPEARS THAT THE NEXT CHAIRMAN OF THE ILO WORKERS' GROUP

MAY WELL BE G. MUHR OF THE GERMAN DGB.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE GERMAN DGB IS IN A POSITION TO THWART THE TUC'S "GRAND DESIGN" IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION MATTERS. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH TOM JACKSON, A TUC GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBER, HE SAID THAT IF THE GERMAN DGB SAID "NO" IN JULY TO CGIL MEMBERSHIP OF THE ETUC, THE TUC WOULD HAVE TO GO ALONG. SIMILARLY, IT NOW APPEARS THAT IF THE GERMANS STAND FIRMLY IN FAVOR OF A DEY IN CALLING A SECOND EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, THE BRITISH TUC AND OTHER EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS CAN DO LITTLE ABOUT IT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE RENEWED AFL-CIO DIALOG WITH GERMAN DGB, BUTTRESSING INTERNAL POLITICAL CHANGES WITHIN THE FRG, MAY YET "PAY OFF."

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